

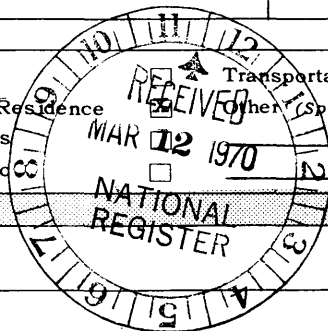
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE: New Jersey	
COUNTY: Essex County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-29-0003	7/28/70

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME			
COMMON: SYDENHAM HOUSE			
AND/OR HISTORIC: (same)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Road to Bloomfield (see continuation sheet)			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark			
STATE: New Jersey 07104		CODE: 29	COUNTY: Essex
			CODE: 013
3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP	STATUS
District ☐ Building ☒ Site ☐ Structure ☐ Object ☐		Public ☐ Private ☒ Both ☐	Occupied ☒ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress ☐
		Public Acquisition: In Process ☐ Being Considered ☐	Yes: ☐ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No: ☒
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments ☐			
Commercial ☐ Industrial ☐ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify) ☐			
Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious ☐			
Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific ☐			
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNERS NAME: Dorland & Elizabeth Henderson			
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Road to Bloomfield			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark		STATE: New Jersey 07104	CODE: 29
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Essex County Hall of Records			
STREET AND NUMBER: Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark		STATE: New Jersey 07102	CODE: 29
APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .4305 acre			
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (see continuation sheet) New Jersey 148			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN: Washington		STATE: District of Columbia	CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: EssexFOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent ☐	Good ☒	Fair ☐	Deteriorated ☐	Ruins ☐ Unexposed ☐
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)		
	Altered ☐	Unaltered ☒	Moved ☐	Original Site ☒	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The cellar under the dining-room is the earliest structure. The walls consist of roughly squared sandstone laid dry, no mortar. It may have been the substructure of an earlier farm building, or a root cellar. The stone structure supporting the dining-room fireplace is laid up with mortar and was evidently built some time after the cellar walls.

The beams supporting the dining-room floor are oak logs slightly adzed flat on top to accommodate the floor boards. These logs are much earlier than the floor boards and were probably part of the farm building or a support for the top of the root cellar.

This cellar had two entrances from outside with steps leading down from ground level. The wall of the cellar of the structure which is the sitting-room and front parlor, closed the westerly entrance. In the late 1800s a project was begun to open the second wall and join the two cellars. This was not finished, probably because of some family situation. The Hendersons completed the opening.

The floor beams of the sitting-room and front parlor are 10" x 11" oak, roughly adzed square. This indicates that they are later than the oak logs of the dining-room floor. The ceiling beams of these rooms are 9" x 11" chestnut, dressed and beaded on the bottom edges, with the exception of the oak beam at the western end, which is chamfered for 7'6", centrally, over the original fireplace. At each end of the chamfer, stub beams are mortised into this oak beam and extend into the end wall. These stub beams and the chamfered portion of oak ceiling beam are smoke blackened.

A hand-split lath and plaster ceiling had been added, covering the beams. This ceiling, like all others, was badly deteriorated and had to be removed. Upon removal, there were many evidences that the beams were originally exposed, and the split lath and plaster ceiling put on at a much later date.

The kitchen fireplace had been closed, possibly in the late 1800s, with sheet iron. A coal range was in front of the fireplace, its flue pipe entering the fireplace flue near the ceiling. The crane with J hooks and iron ring was found intact in the fireplace. There was evidence that there had been a mantel and wood panel up to the ceiling. On this assumption, the Hendersons built a mantel and panel. This is the only structural change or addition that has been made in the house.

In the kitchen, for the purpose of insulation and for convenience in mounting shelves, wood paneling above the window sill level was used to replace the deteriorated plaster. With the exception of this paneling above the window sill level and the mantel and panel on the fireplace all woodwork in the kitchen is original.

The front wall, from the front door to the western corner, had collapsed. The entire west end wall was cracked, bulged, and unstable. These were taken down and relaid with the original stones.

The two front windows of the front parlor were completely lost, together with the wood embrasures and trim. The sashes of these windows are new (see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐16th Century ☐18th Century ☒20th Century ☐15th Century ☐17th Century ☐19th Century ☒SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) John Sydenham married Susannah Handcock in 1711. Very shortly after, Susannah's father transacted a gift deed of four acres of land.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal ☐Education ☐Political ☐Urban Planning ☐Prehistoric ☐Engineering ☐

Religion/Phi-

Other (Specify) ☒Historic ☐Industry ☐losophy ☐Excellent exampleAgriculture ☒Invention ☐Science ☐of family home-Art ☐Landscape ☐Sculpture ☐stead type of farmCommerce ☐Architecture ☐

Social/Human-

of the 18th CenturyCommunications ☐Literature ☐itarian ☐Conservation ☐Military ☐Theater ☐Music ☐Transportation ☐

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

This was a farm house built by ordinary people, occupied by successive generations of their descendants who prospered as farmers. This is one of the two oldest houses in Newark. The Sydenhams added to their farmland acreage and enlarged the house in successive generations as needed.

The historic marker, placed in front of the house in 1966 by the State Department of Conservation and Economic Development states: "One of the oldest structures in Newark. Built in 18th century, this house is a prime example of early American ingenuity in architecture."

Highlights of Sydenham genealogy:

John Sydenham cordwainer, born 169-, died intestate 17--; married Susannah Handcock, daughter of Edward Handcock, yeoman, in 1711. They had two sons: John¹ born March 16, 1714, died November 1, 1754. Samuel, died intestate and unmarried 1759.

On February 21, 1711 Edward Handcock of Newark transacted a gift-deed to his son-in-law John Sydenham of 4 acres of land. On June 18, 1711 John Sydenham bought 4 acres of land of Joseph Jones, yeoman, of Newark, on the road leading to the mountain. On July 23, 1717, a land transaction was made between John Godon of Newark and John² Sydenham. (Many other land transactions by this John Sydenham)

John Sydenham (or Sidnham) born March 16, 1714, married Martha Longworth December 8, 1741. She was born August 23, 1724 and died May 12, 1804. He was chosen 1 of 4 Surveyors of Highways. They had seven children.

Thomas Sydenham (or Sidenham), son of John² and Martha Longworth, born November 4, 1753, died August 12, 1816; married Sarrah Fordham in October 1779. She was born December 14, 1753, died in 1816. Thomas was named one of the Overseers of Highways in 1789, 1798, and 1805. There were seven children including David, born August 22, 1794, died 1825, unmarried; who apparently initiated the Sidman spelling, refusing to sign his name any other way.

John Sidman son of Thomas and Sarah, born July 5, 1785, died March 6, 1859, married August 1817 Amelia Baker, daughter of Matthias and Mary Ward Baker, born September 8, 1794, died November 1, 1866. They had eight children.

John Edgar Sidman son of John Sidman⁴ and Amelia Baker, born August 16, 1829; died March 4, 1894, married Mary Frances Ammerman April 1859. On November 25, 1879 John Edgar Sidman was declared a "lunatic." On April 23, 1881 wife Mary Frances was appointed his guardian, and on May 21, 1890, she conveyed parcels of the land to 9 relatives.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Charles Carroll Gardner manuscripts of Rutgers Library—New Brunswick.
C. G. Hine "Woodside, the North End of Newark, N.J." printed in 1909
Registrar of Deeds, Hall of Records, Newark, N.J.
Greener Papers, New Jersey Historical Society, 230 Broadway, Newark, N.J.
New Jersey Archives, State Library, Trenton—1st Series Vol. 32
Calendar of Wills 1751-60; and 1st Series Vol. 39 Calendar of Wills
1801-05; and 1st Series Vol. 42 Calendar of Wills 1814-1817.
"Official Descriptive Catalog of Colonial and Revolutionary Relics now
in Possession of the Citizens of New Jersey," compiled by Authority
of the Board of Women Managers of the Exhibit of the State of New
Jersey, World's Columbian Exposition, 1893, p. 107.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		40 46 39 N	74 10 30 W	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Dorland and Elizabeth Henderson		
ORGANIZATION (owners)		
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Road to Bloomfield		
CITY OR TOWN: Newark	STATE New Jersey	CODE 29

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Jeffrey T. Butler

Title Acting Commissioner, Dept. of Conservation and Economic Development

Date February 27, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUL 28 1970

Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. Mumtaz
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 8 1970

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
70-7-29.0003	7/28/70

(Number all entries) Sydenham House, Old Road to Bloomfield, Newark, N.J. 07104#2 Location

According to the Tax Assessor's Office, the original name of the street was Old Road to Bloomfield. In the 1926 map herewith, the name is the corrupted form of Old Bloomfield Road; showing the then-projected Branch Brook Park. At the time of the HABS survey in 1936 when the Misses Topping lived in the house (owned at that time by G. Rae Lewis), they used the present dining-room door with a path leading out to DeGraw Avenue with street number 720. When the Hendersons bought the house in 1954 and took occupancy in 1955, they bought only half of the Lewis holding which cut the house off from DeGraw, and reestablished the front door facing the Old Road to Bloomfield. The deed to the property read "Old Road to Bloomfield now called First Street." They secured affirmation from the City of Newark that this was, indeed, the Old Road to Bloomfield and the sign at the corner of Elwood and Branch Brook Park was changed back to the original name.

#6 Surveys

Historic Sites and Buildings Committee 1960 Local
Newark Library, Washington Street, Newark, N.J. 07102

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2186.15
Historic Sites Office
State Department of Conservation & Economic Development
Box 1420
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

#7 Description—Physical Appearance

and the trim is an accurate reproduction of the original by a local lumber mill. The sashes of the window in the west wall of the front parlor are new, but the trim and embrasure were salvaged and reinstalled in the rebuilt wall. All window sashes, embrasures and trim in the rear parlor are original.

There were the remains of a roof of cedar shakes over the beehive oven projecting from the kitchen wall. The pine shakes in the new roof were split and laid by Mr. Henderson.

In their restoration efforts, the Hendersons have tried to re-establish what appeared to be the original appearance of this particular house as much as possible. Modern conveniences have been kept to the bare essentials and made as inconspicuous as feasible.

#8 Significance—Genealogy

Albert Thomas Sidman born September 24, 1822, died December 1, 1872, son of John Sidman and Amelia Baker. Albert married Anna Mary Moore on December 24, 1855. She remarried Hobbs and died January 24, 1907. They had daughters Ida Blanche, born 1858, died April 2, 1865

Anna Belle, born 1862, died 1903

Laura, born December 6, 1866, died October 17, 1952.

Laura was the last known of the direct Sydenham line. She had her name legally changed from Sidman back to Sydenham. She was a school principal in Plainfield, New Jersey; apparently a person of strong character and an active participant in community affairs.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
New Jersey	
COUNTY	
Essex County	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
20.7.29.0003	7/28/70

(Number all entries)

Sydenham House
Old Road to Bloomfield
Newark, N.J.
Code: state - 29, county - 013

JUN 16 1970

#6. New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory #2186.15, Dept. of Environmental Protection, Box 1420, Trenton, N.J.

#8. Situated in one of the most highly urbanized cities in the United States, this house has stood for over 250 years as an example of an early American homestead and is possibly the oldest house within the present bounds of Newark. A forerunner of the salt-box type of architecture, it was for many years the testing ground for every different phase of American constructional style.

The history of the Sydenham House parallels that of Newark. It had existed years before the very chartering of the city. In 1711 Newark was a new and flourishing settlement founded less than 50 years before under the leadership of Robert Treat and his small group of pioneers.

One of the early settlers who reportedly came over with Treat in 1666 was Edward Handcook who later became a prominent Newark landowner. Handcook's only daughter, Susannah, met and eloped with John Sydenham, a young Englishman. Her father's objections were assuaged when he learned that John was the heir of a rich and influential family in Britain.

Edward Handcook deeded the young couple two grants of land in northern Newark on which the "Sydenham House" was built. The deed refers to the property as four acres on the "highway to Acquacanong" and six acres on the "highway to Waterrson". "Waterrson" and "Acquacanong" refer to Bloomfield and Passaic respectively.

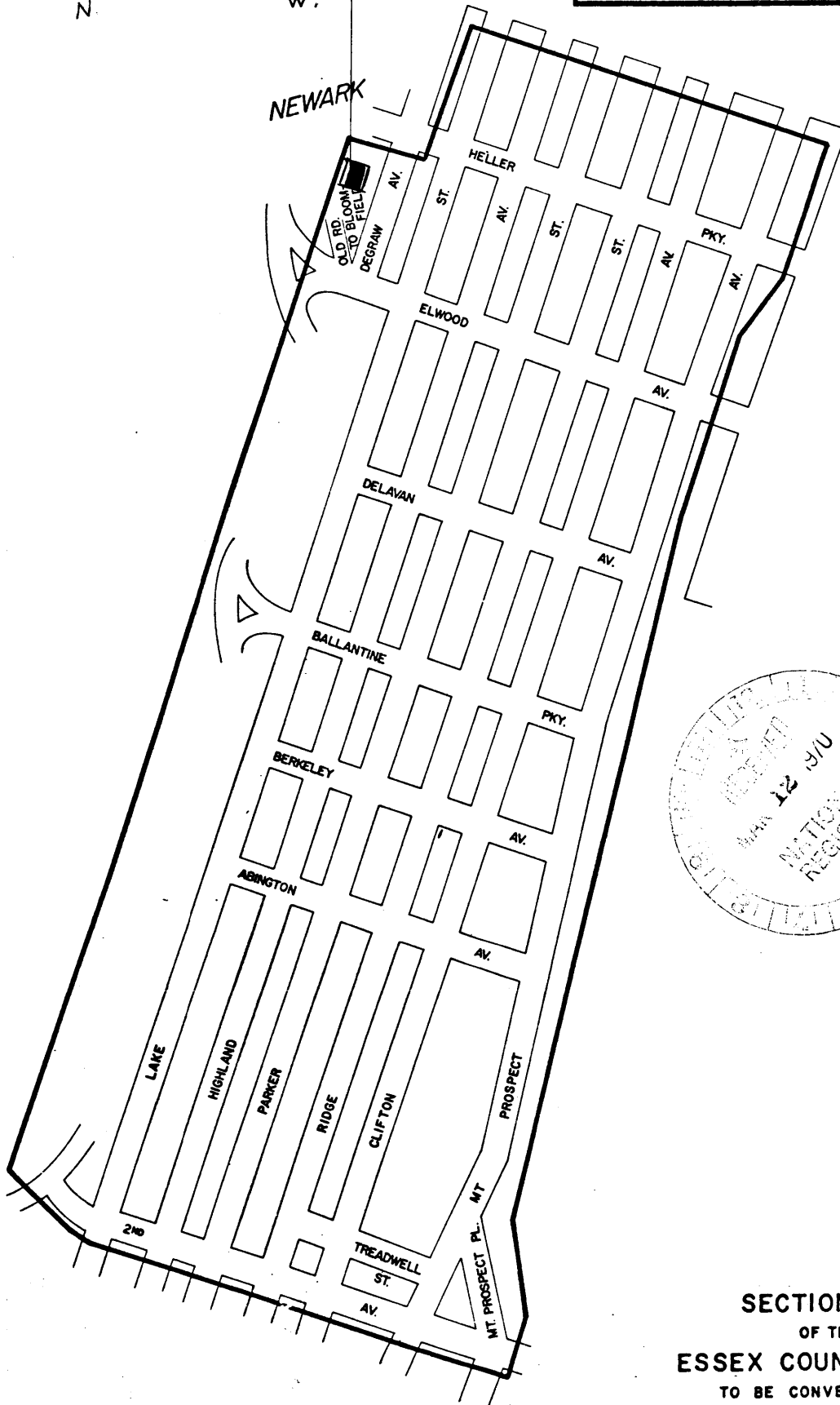
The Sydenham House is a prime example of early American ingenuity in architecture. The House is built on stone foundations with overlapping beams of oak and pine. Many of those beams are the original timbers, cut from the surrounding forests nearly 250 years ago and they still aid in keeping the house on its firm basis.

John and Susannah added a second part to the house consisting of three rooms: the present living room, kitchen and possibly the pantry. The front roof was supposed to have been raised in pre-Revolutionary days and that caused the building to take on the "salt-box" image which was soon to become the major architectural style of the day. In 1835 this image was destroyed when a descendant of the family allowed the back to be raised. The house is today as it was in that year when the last major innovation was made. This homestead, held by the Sydenham family for over 200 years, is the only existing legacy of these pioneer settlers who later achieved prominence in the community.



Sydenham House Coordinates
40° 46' 39" Lat., 74° 10' 30" Long.
N. W.

THIS IS
YOUR CONVERSION SECTION



SECTION 52
OF THE
ESSEX COUNTY AREA
TO BE CONVERTED TO

STRAIGHT NATURAL GAS SERVICE DURING 1964



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE

New Jersey

COUNTY

Essex

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

70-7-29-0003

7/28/70

1. NAME

COMMON: Sydenham House

AND/OR HISTORIC: (same)

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Old Road to Bloomfield

CITY OR TOWN:

Newark

STATE:

New Jersey 07104

CODE

29

COUNTY:

Essex

CODE

013

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE: Public Service Electric & Gas Company

80 Park Place, Newark, New Jersey 07103

SCALE:

1" to 500'

DATE:

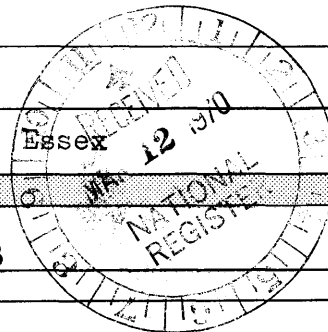
1964

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. Property boundaries where required.
2. North arrow.
3. Latitude and longitude reference.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Sydenham House

P a r k

Park

60' ST. 1ST

OLD BLOOMFIELD DRIVE

D R I V E



HELLER

74-3

G.R. Lewis

40° 46' 39" Lat. N 15°
74° 10' 30" Long. W.

DEGRAW

Forest Hill Land Co.

Carl Merz

8' ELW

VP 8

IS COURTS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

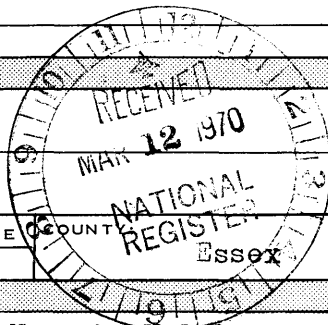
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Essex	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70-7-29.00037	DATE 2/28/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Sydenham House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: (same)			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Old Road to Bloomfield			
CITY OR TOWN: Newark			
STATE: New Jersey 07104	CODE 29	COUNTY: Essex	CODE 013
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Robinson's Atlas of the City of Newark Vol 1			
E. Robinson, J.M. Lathrop, Thos. Flynn published by Elisha Robinson			
SCALE: 1" to 100 ' 142 Market St. Newark, N.J.			
DATE: 1926			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required. outlined in red			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





NPS Number 70-7-29-0003

Title: Sydenham House

Loc. Ossey County, N.C.

Aerial view from south with
Branch Brook Park in foreground,
Old Road to Bloomfield between
park and house

(1)



NPS Number 70-7-24-0003

Title: Sydenham House

Loc. Essex County, N.J.

(2)

Rear, facing North toward Heller
Parkway; and westerly end of
House



NPS Number 70-7-29-0003

Title: Sydenham House

Loc. Essex County, N.J.

(3)

Westerly end of house facing
Kaisel's pits in Brand Brook
Park; and side view of rear



NPS Number

70-7-29-0003

Title:

Sydenham House

Loc.

Assey County, N.J.

Rear, facing North toward
Heller Parkway



NPS Number

70-7-29-0003

Title:

Sydenham House

Loc.

Essex County, N.J.

Exterior facing South



NPS Number.

70-7-29-0003

Title:

Sydenham House

Loc.

Essex County, N.G.
Easterly end of house



NPS Number 70-7-29-0003

Title: Sydenham House

Loc. Essex County, N.Y.

Eastern end of house

7



NPS Number

70-7-29-0003

Title:

Sydenham House

Loc.

Essex County, N.J.

Westerly end of house facing
Horseshoe pits in Branch Brook
Park.

8



NPS Number

70-7-29-0003

Title:

Sydenham House

9.

Loc.

Essex County, N.J.

exterior, facing south;
front of house